

GET IN THE LAKER SPIRIT

Middle School Course Descriptions

The following courses will be offered to our Middle School students during the 2021 - 2022 school year. Each student must take English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Theology. They will be able to choose electives to for the other three class periods.

VISUAL, PERFORMING, AND APPLIED ARTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

Available to students in grades 6-8

Students will be learning the rudiments of drawing, painting in acrylic and watercolor, and will construct simple dimensional art works. Color theory will be explored and used after tints, tones and shades are mastered. Harmonies such as Complementary, Monochromatic, and Analogous will be taught. Calligraphy and pottery will be explored. Many of the drawing and painting projects will be collaborative with other classes. Emphasis will be placed on preparing works for Art Show entry.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Available to students in grades 6-8

Middle School Band is an introduction to formal performance-oriented music. Emphasis is on the large ensemble concept with much attention given to both the concert and competition opportunities. The 7th and 8th grade Band also has the opportunity to perform at one High School Football game per year. Individual performance opportunities are also encouraged and available with participation at Junior High Solo and Ensemble Festival.

CHOIR (Early High School)

Available to students in grades 8-12

Students will study choral music from various periods of musical history, as well as concentrate on the fundamentals of music and developing musicianship skills. Emphasis is placed upon the development of the individual voice and the choral sound. Students are encouraged to participate in solo and small ensemble singing opportunities. Students will participate in the Christmas and Spring Concert performances.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Available to students in grades 6-8

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate educational program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. All students will show competence in the following six physical education content standards: motor skills and movement patterns, understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities, regular participation in lifelong physical activity, achieving and maintaining a health-enhancing level of physical fitness, exhibiting responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings, and value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

6th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Novels and literature, as well as themed units of study will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course. Emphasis in this course is placed on understanding the writing process.

7th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Units organized by genre, as well as novels and literature will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course. Emphasis in this course is placed on practicing the writing process.

8th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Units organized by genre, as well as novels and literature will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course. This course will emphasize integrating the use of current technology tools to practice the writing process and publish student work.

MATHEMATICS

6th GRADE MATH

This course is intended to teach students operations with fractions, rational numbers, and integers, applied problems using decimals, percentages and rational numbers, introduction to exponents, coordinate plane, writing and simplifying expressions, solving equations, measurement and converting between measurement systems, basic geometric properties and transformations, and probability.

7th GRADE MATH

Available to all 7th grade students and 6th grade students with teacher approval

This course will prepare students for Pre-Algebra. Students in this class will acquire information in the following areas: applying whole number, fractional and decimal operations, ratios, proportions and percents, expressions, one-step equations and inequalities, volume and surface area, and understanding probability and data concepts.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Available to all 8th grade students and 7th grade students with teacher approval

This Pre-Algebra course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students and is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and II. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will explore algebraic expressions and integers, solve one- and two-step equations and inequalities, factors, ratios, proportions, percents, exponents, linear functions and graphing, area and volume, data analysis and probability, and nonlinear functions and polynomials.

ALGEBRA I (Early High School)

Available to students in grades 8-9 who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra

This is a first year Algebra course. The key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations or inequalities. This course also includes study of monomial and polynomial expressions, exponents, functions, and rational expressions. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving applications.

THEOLOGY

6th GRADE THEOLOGY

Theme: Following Christ

The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

Sequence:

Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.

Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

Aim: To help sixth-grade students learn to love the moral law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

7th GRADE THEOLOGY

Theme: The Life of Grace

Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

Sequence:

Part 1: God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.

Part 2: God Becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.

Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

Aim: To help seventh-grade students treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

8th GRADE THEOLOGY

Theme: Our Life in the Church

The history of the Church - its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

Sequence:

Part 1: The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority. The early Church: Martyrs, Fathers, Saints and Mary.

Part 2: The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

Aim: To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that young people may be strengthened through their lives in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History of the Western Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Western Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. Social Studies is a multifaceted discipline, integrating the study of social science humanities. The purpose of the social studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh grade students will review the tools and constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History of the Eastern Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. Social Studies is a multifaceted discipline, integrating the study of social science humanities. The purpose of the social studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade students continue their study of United States History from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, the students analyze an issue or propose a plan for civic action. They develop reasoned arguments and write a persuasive essay addressing issues from the past within a historical context. Where appropriate, they make comparisons to relevant contemporary humanities. The purpose of the Social Studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

SCIENCE

6th GRADE SCIENCE

Physical Science: Energy and Changes in Matter

Students enter the sixth grade with the knowledge of different forms of energy (sound, light, heat, electrical, and magnetic). They have had the opportunity to explore properties of sound and light, observe heat transfer, construct a simple circuit, observe the interaction between magnetic and non magnetic material, and finally make an electromagnetic motor. Sixth grade students deepen their understanding of energy through investigations into kinetic and potential energy and the demonstration of the transformation of kinetic energy. Through the investigation of energy transfer by radiation, conduction, or convection, students are introduced to the concept that energy can be transferred while no energy is lost or gained. Students begin to see the connections among light, heat, sound, electricity, and magnetism. They gain an understanding that energy is an important property of substances and that most changes observed involve an energy transfer. Students will understand energy by observing multiple forms of energy transfer and begin to dispel the misconception that energy is linked to fuel or something that is stored, ready to use, and gets consumed. Sixth grade students also build on their understanding of changes in matter by exploring states in terms of the arrangement and motion of atoms and molecules. They are given the opportunity to design investigations that provide evidence that mass is conserved as it changes from state to state.

Life Science: Organization of Living Things and Ecosystems

The study of life science in the elementary curriculum has introduced students to roles organisms play in a food web, their needs to survive, and the physical and behavioral characteristics that help them survive. The elementary student has a beginning understanding of the dependency of organisms on one another and balance in an ecosystem's food web. Sixth grade students build on their prior knowledge by exploring classifications of organisms based on their source of energy (producers, consumers, and decomposers) and distinguish between ways in which organisms obtain energy. The study of ecosystems at this level includes interactions of organisms within populations, communities, and ecosystems including examples in the Great Lakes region. Students recognize patterns in ecosystems and broaden their understanding from the way one species lives in an environment to how populations and communities interact....

...They explore how populations can be mutually beneficial and how that relationship can lead to interdependency. The final course of study in ecosystems for the sixth grader includes biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem that influence change. Included is the consequence of overpopulation of a species, including humans. Students explore how humans affect change, purposefully and accidentally, and recognize possible consequences for activity and development.

Earth Science: Solid Earth, Earth in Space and Time

Sixth grade students develop a deeper understanding of the Earth through the exploration of the rock cycle, phenomena that shape the Earth, and Earth's history. In the elementary curriculum, students observed a variety of Earth materials and identified different properties that help sustain life. Sixth grade students explore the formation and weathering of rocks and how different soil types are formed. Their knowledge continues through study of movement of lithospheric plates, major geological events, and layers of the Earth. Students are introduced to the concept of the Earth as a magnet.

7th GRADE SCIENCE

Physical Science: Energy, Properties of Matter, Changes in Matter

Seventh grade students continue their exploration into the concept of energy through the exploration of light energy and solar energy effects. Students gain a greater understanding of the role of the sun's warming and lighting of the Earth, and how light energy is transferred to chemical energy through photosynthesis. The transfer of energy is studied through examples of waves (sound, seismic, and water) and how waves transfer energy when they interact with matter. Their earlier studies of properties of matter emphasized observable physical properties. Seventh grade students explore a more in-depth study of physical properties (boiling point, density, and color) and chemical properties of matter (flammability, pH, acid/base indicators, and reactivity). Students are introduced to organization of the Periodic Table of the Elements and recognize the atom as the smallest component that makes up an element. Seventh grade students draw upon their knowledge of properties of matter and use evidence to describe physical and chemical change. They recognize that when a chemical change occurs, a new substance is produced and that the new substance has different physical and chemical properties than the original substance. Students describe evidence of chemical change as a change in color, gas formation, solid formation, and temperature change.

Life Science: Organization of Living Things and Heredity

Seventh grade students expand their investigations of living things to include the study of cells. They demonstrate that all organisms are composed of cells and that multicellular organisms and single cellular organisms exist in ecosystems. The seventh grade study of cells includes how cells make up different body tissues, organs, and organ systems and are specialized in their functions. Cell division is explored to help the students describe growth and development. Seventh grade students have the fine motor skills and conceptual development to use a light microscope and accurately interpret what they see. This enhances their introduction to cells and microorganisms, establishing a foundation for molecular biology at the high school level. In the seventh grade content expectations, students expand their knowledge to include how characteristics of living things are passed on through generations, both asexually and sexually. Seventh grade students are able to understand that genetic material carries information. They compare and contrast the advantages of sexual vs. asexual reproduction, and recognize that reproduction is a characteristic of all living things and necessary for the continuation of every species.

Earth Science: Earth Systems and Fluid Earth

The primary focus of the Earth science content expectations understands the relationship between the sun's warming of the Earth, the water cycle, and weather and climate. In the sixth grade Earth science curriculum, students studied the rock cycle and physical and chemical weathering. The seventh grade units of study explore another Earth cycle in the context of the water cycle and the composition of the atmosphere. Students investigate the sun's warming of the atmosphere, land, and water, and how it affects the movement of water through the atmosphere, weather, and climate. Their knowledge of weather goes beyond the more basic observations of weather from the elementary curriculum to include the frontal boundaries, major air masses, and the jet stream. The reflection of their knowledge is applied to how human activities have changed the land, oceans, and atmosphere, and the implications of pollution, climate change, and threatening or endangering species.

8th GRADE EARTH SCIENCE

Earth Science is a detailed look at our planet and the processes that have shaped it. During the course students will be exposed to important concepts in astronomy, meteorology, geology and physical oceanography. Students will engage in learning activities and laboratory experiments related to the study of the structure, dynamics and history of the earth. Topics include: the earth as a member of the solar system, interaction with other members of the solar system, structure of the atmosphere, meteorology, geology, glaciers, deserts, seashores, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, erosive processes, and ocean features and dynamics.

BIOLOGY (Early High School)

Available to students in grades 8-12.

Prerequisite for 8th graders: Successful completion of Science 6 and 7, teacher recommendation, and placement test. Taken in addition to 8th Grade Earth Science

This NGSS-aligned course explores the living world with emphasis on biological interactions in everyday life. Students will investigate cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, cellular processes, and the diversity of life. Concept oriented information, laboratory experiences, experimental design, technology, and data analysis are emphasized. This course includes a laboratory component.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

FRENCH I (Early High School)

Available to students in grades 8-12

This course introduces the students to elementary French conversation and being able to express themselves in everyday situations. This course addresses basic elementary grammar, the reading of simple French stories, beginning French composition, authentic listening activities and the culture of French speaking locations and people. Main conversation topics include: introducing oneself, talking about food, family, interests and different actions in the present and past tenses.

SPANISH I (Early High School)

Available to students in grades 8-12

Spanish I, a course based on Michigan's Academic Standards for World Languages, introduces students to effective strategies for beginning Spanish language learning, and to various aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures. This course encourages interpersonal communication through speaking and writing, providing opportunities to make and respond to basic requests and questions, understand and use appropriate greetings and forms of address, participate in brief guided conversations on familiar topics, and write short passages with guidance.